Borough of Chard

1969

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
CREWKERNE,
SOMERSET.

A. M. McCALL, V.R.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

B O R O U G H O F C H A R D

ANNUAL REPORT

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THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ended 31st December, 1969.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

A.M. McCall, V.R.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

D.V. Hague, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

D.H. Till, D.S.C., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Assistant Public Health Inspector

J.Hill, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk to Medical Officer

Miss Y. Michael, M.A.

Health Visitors

Mrs. E.G. Major S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Miss J.D. Ralston, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.F.N. (Retired 31.10.69.)

Miss G.E. Slocombe, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Miss B. Edmunds, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Health Department,
16, Church Street,
Crewkerne,
Somerset.

Tel. No. Crewkerne 3419

To the Mayor, Alderman and Councillors of the Borough of Chard

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Report for 1969.

It was an active year in which every side of the Council's work was developed. The gradual increase in population necessitated more school accommodation. A new primary school of very modern design opened at Avishayes in the autumn. More houses were built.

The severe epidemic of influenza which struck the country in December affected a large number of our residents. One unfortunately died as a direct result of infection with the virus.

After many years service, Miss Ralston, Health Visitor, retired. I would like to place on record my thanks to her and to all those who have helped the Council's work during the year and are continuing to do so in so many ways.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

A.M. McCALL

Medical Officer of Health

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SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Population The estimated mid-year population for 1969 was 7,130 which was 100 up on the previous year. The rateable value was £287,397 and the product of a penny rate £1,100. The population density was 6 per acre.

Birth Rate The corrected Birth Rate was 22.6 per thousand, as compared with the national figure of 16.3. There were thirteen illegitimate births which gives a percentage figure of nine of all live births in the Borough, compared with the figure of eight for England and Wales.

Death Rate The corrected Death Rate was 11.1 per thousand, compared with the national figure of 11.9. Out of a total of 104 deaths, thirty-four were due to heart disease, eighteen being coronary heart disease. There were twenty-one deaths due to "strokes". There were twelve deaths due to cancer, three of these being due to cancer of the lung. There were sixteen deaths due to respiratory disease and one due to influenza. Appendix A, Table 3 shows full details of the causes of death.

Maternal Mortality There were no maternal deaths during the year.

Stillbirths There was one stillbirth in 1969.

Infant Mortality There was one infant death due to respiratory failure.

Social Habits There was little change in the social patterns but the general increase in the cost of living was felt by all and hardest by the elderly and those on fixed pensions.

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

The local health services provided by the County Council continued.

One change made was the introduction of computor recording of all immunisations. The records of all children up to the age of ten were fed into the computor and those requiring procedures in accordance with the latest Ministry schedule were sent for and the immunisations carried out at the private practioners' surgeries. No immunisations were carried out at the child welfare clinics or in the schools. This affected the numbers of older children attending the child welfare clinic.

I carried out an annual inspection in all the schools. Details are shown in Appendix B, Table2.

During the school medical inspections I frequently saw overweight children. Whenever a parent accompanied the child I explained the need to learn sensible food habits. A fat child means a fat adult eventually and allowing a child to become fat is a cruel kindness. Not only is the child being condemned to a life of social isolation as a "fatty" but also is shortening its expectation of life.

I reported last year on the crowded conditions at the Infants' School and in September the new primary school at Avishayes came into operation and all places in the younger age groups were taken up immediately. This did relieve the pressure on the Holyrood Infants' School.

The demand for places in the excellently run playgroup in the town continued and at the end of the year the possibility of forming a second group was being actively investigated.

The need for a new district hospital at Taunton was the subject of a meeting called by the Mayor of Bridgwater to which all local authorities were invited. The Borough Council fully supported the aims of the meeting and the Mayor expressed the town's concern at the delay in providing the new hospital.

SECTION C

Prevention and Control over Infectious Diseases and Other Diseases

Little infectious disease was notified during the year with the exception of 170 cases of measles. Measles vaccine was made available to private practitioners and publicity was given to the need to protect children against this illness.

During the autumn of 1968 an epidemic of influenza was expected to spread westward from Hong Kong. Vaccine manufacturers worked non-stop to produce the vaccine. The Press gave wide publicity to the threatened epidemic - and then, nothing. The outbreak simply did not happen or was so mild as to be negligible. The unfortunate consequence was to foster an attitude of unconcern about "Mao Flu". When the real epidemic struck in December, 1969 the country was largely unprepared.

During the previous winter there was considerable demand for vaccine which was rationed and used exclusively for susceptible persons. During the autumn of 1969 the demand was not repeated. The first cases occurred in early December and increased rapidly. By the end of the month influenza was widespread throughout the country. Chard did not escape. There were so many calls for medical treatment I agreed to the general practitioners issuing a first medical certificate without a visit but subsequent certificates were only issued after the patient had been seen. There was one death due directly to influenza.

I carried out my B.C.G. programme against tuberculosis in the spring. Children born in 1958 were those offered vaccination. I vaccinated 104 at the Secondary Modern School, ten at Chard School and eleven at St. Gilda's Convent.

There was no visit of the Mass X-Ray Unit to the town during the year and, following a change of policy nationally, regular visits will no longer be carried out unless there is a special necessity.

The County Council made anthrax vaccine available for use at the abattoir. I paid three visits there and gave 205 injections. Ninety-five of the staff completed a course of two doses.

Home Safety The Public Health Committee continued to take an active interest in accident prevention and were particularly concerned with the resale of second hand electrical apparatus, the new wiring colour code and the effect of defective wiring in older houses. Appropriate action was taken in each case.

SECTION D

Environmental Health Services

A. Sanitary Circumstances

Climatic Conditions In 1969 the weather was generally mild with no extremes of temperature. There were good sunny periods during the summer and no severe rain which caused flooding in the previous year.

Water Supply The water supply from the Wessex Water Board was generally satisfactory in quality and quantity. There was an occasional complaint of poor pressure and the Board took action to obviate this. There were also occasional complaints of excessive chlorine but these usually occurred towards the "dead end" of the mains. The Water Board Laboratory examined twenty-one samples of water during the year and all proved satisfactory. A further twenty-one were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory and all of these were satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewage Disposal Trouble was experienced on and off throughout the year with the effluent from the sewage works and frequently the standard of 15:15 could not be met largely due to the blood and animal matter being discharged from the abattoir who were not complying with the trade waste agreement standards. In fact, a very large proportion of the Public Health Committee's time at each meeting concerned various aspects of the abattoir drainage. In addition, the situation was not helped by the delay in fixing new distributors to the old percolating filter; a delay in delivery being the cause.

The Committee were also concerned at the excessive amount of sludge at the works and this had to be removed by tanker.

At the end of the year negotiations were taking place between the Council and a proposed poultry packing establishment to find the best method of accepting their effluent.

Refuse Collection The Council continued their regular weekly collection of refuse and extended their scheme involving the use of refuse sacks. Sacks were issued to Council houses built since 1968, to all old peoples' bungalows and flats, to the elderly and infirm and to places where the length of carry is excessive or where traffic congestion occurs. About 440 were issued weekly, both paper and plastic being used; the paper for sack holders and the plastic as bin liners for existing dustbins. It is hoped to further extend the scheme in subsequent years.

Public Conveniences The public conveniences were well maintained and hot water installed in order to comply with the Ministry instructions. It was decided to erect a new convenience at Millfield in lieu of the unsatisfactory building at Jocelyn Park.

Rodent Control The Council continued to employ a part-time rodent operator who dealt with all complaints in addition to the routine test baiting and treatment of Council installations. Occasional complaints received were dealt with promptly and no heavy infestations occurred.

Swimming Baths The Secondary Modern School and Chard School have baths which were maintained by staff to a standard satisfactory to the Council.

Nuisances A great many complaints of nuisance were received in the Public Health Department but the majority referred to smells and fumes in the Furnham Road area and the Public Health Inspector spent a great deal of time trying to effect an improvement. Complaints of smoke and noise were also dealt with satisfactorily.

B. Factories Act

The Public Health Inspector carried out a number of inspections under this Act and details are shown in Appendix D, Table 1.

C. Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act

Routine inspection was carried out at a number of the 125 registered premises. Ten informal notices were served.

D. Housing

The Council built thirty-six houses during the year and a further thirty were in the course of erection. Private builders completed fifty-two and a further fifty-six were on the stocks. It is anticipated that the Council will build over 200 in the next four years.

Despite housing many from the surrounding Rural District and from further afield, they were able to still further reduce their waiting list.

The Council proceeded under the Housing Act, 1964, to declare three Improvement Areas and were actively engaged in work on three others.

They also continued to deal sympathetically with all applications for grants, both Standard and Discretionary, and this legislation is improving the standard of housing in the town.

Full details of the housing situation are shown in Appendix D, Table 2.

Caravans There is one licensed caravan site in the town and it is estimated that it houses thirty-six persons.

E. Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk There are three registered distributors and two registered dairy premises within the Borough. Sampling is carried out by the County Council staff and fifty-four milk samples were taken during the year.

Ice Cream There is one manufacturer/retailer and thirty premises are registered for the sale of the pre-packed product. The Public Health Inspector took twenty-eight samples during 1969 and they were graded as follows: 24 Grade I; 3 Grade II; 1 Grade III.

Meat The one large abattoir in the town continued to deal with a large number of animals. One whole-time meat inspector and two part-time staff were employed in order to maintain one hundred per cent inspection.

The Public Health Inspector's constant aim is to improve the hygiene of this abattoir and the standard is rising steadily. Improvements in cleaning methods in the lay-out of the slaughter hall have been carried out and work was going ahead to provide a new gut room in the near future.

Details are shown in Appendix D, Table 3.

Food Hygiene Regulations There are seventy-two premises subject to the Food Hygiene Regulations. Routine inspection was carried out at these premises.

Two mobile shops operating in the town did not comply and, despite a number of warnings and advice from the Public Health Inspector, the owners failed to make the necessary improvements until legal action was taken.

APPENDIX A TABLE I

Registrar General's estimate of population mid 1969	7,130
No. of inhabited houses at the end of 1969 according to the Rate Book	2,715
Rateable Value	£287,397
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,100
Area (in acres)	1,030

APPENDIX A TABLE 2

BIRTH RATE 20.2 Comparability Factor 1.12

		M	F
Live Births	Total	72	72
	Legitimate	66	65
	Illegitimate	6	7
Stillbirths	Total	-	1
	Legitimate	-	1
	Illegitimate	-	-
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Total	1	-
	Legitimate	1	-
	Illegitimate	-	-
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks	Total	1	-
	Legitimate	1	-
	Illegitimate	-	-
Deaths of Infants under 1 week	Total	-	-
	Legitimate	-	-
	Illegitimate	-	-

APPENDIX A TABLE 3

	Sex	Total all Ages	Under 4 weeks	Under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+
Cancer of Intestine	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Cancer of Lung	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Cancer of Uterus	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cancer of all Other Sites	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Nervous System etc.	M	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Hypertensive Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	7	1
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4
Other Forms of Heart Disease	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	5
	F	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	6
	F	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	9
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Influenza	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Peptic Ulcer	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Appendicitis	M	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intestinal Obstruction & Hernia	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cirrhosis of Liver	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		1

	Sex	Total all Ages	Under 4 Weeks	Under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.,	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
All Other Accidents	M	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suicide & Self-Inflicted Injuires	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	56	1	-	2	1	-	-	2	4	10	19	17
	F	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	6	36

APPENDIX B TABLE 1

Chard Child Welfare Clinic

1. No. of children on register who attended during 1969

Born in 1969	.....	.....	73
Born in 1968	.....	.....	82
Born in 1964/67	.....	.....	30

2. No. of attendances in 1969 by children

Born in 1969	.....	.....	349
Born in 1968	.....	.....	400
Born in 1964/67	.....	.....	74

3. No. of sessions 24

4. No. of medical consultations 192

5. No. of doctor sessions 24

APPENDIX B TABLE 2

Name of School	No. on Roll	No. inspected	Date of Medical Inspection	Children having milk	Children having dinner	Date of last Inspection
Chard Infants'	226	139	16/17/22/23 Oct. 1969.	97.78%	83.67%	1.7.69.
Chard Junior	448	189	14/15/16/19 May 1969.	75.89%	78.12%	March,1969.
Chard Secondary Modern	547	130	3/5/7. March 1969.	-	54.04%	Novemb[illegible] 1969

APPENDIX C TABLE 1

Infectious Diseases

Scarlet Fever	.....	2
Sonne Dysentery	.....	1
Measles	.....	170

Analysis of Cases Notified

	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 +
Scarlet Fever					1	1							
Sonne Dysentery					1								
Measles	9	14	31	21	27	66	1		1				

Tuberculosis

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
- 1								
1 - 5								
5 - 15								
15 - 25								
25 - 35								
35 - 45								
45 - 55								
55 - 65								
65+								
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX D TABLE 1

Factories Acts 1937-1959

		No. on Register	No. of inspections	No. of written Notices	No. of occupiers prosecuted
(i)	Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 enforced by Local Authority	-	-	-	-
(ii)	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	59	39	5	-
(iii)	Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
		59	39	5	-

Cases in which defects were found	.....	.....	5
Cases in which defects were remedied	.....	.....	5
No. of out-workers in August List required by Section 110	.....	.....	16

APPENDIX D TABLE 2

Housing

1.	No. of houses included in Clearance Area for which Orders are still to be made	None
2.	No. of houses in Clearance Areas which have been patched for temporary accommodation under Section 48 of the Housing Act, 1957.	None
3.	No. of houses closed or demolished under Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1957 (Clearance Areas).	None
4.	Housing Act, 1957 (Section 17 - Individual Unfits)	
	(i) (a) Houses demolished =	None
	(b) Houses closed	None
	(ii) For other purposes, (road improvements, etc.)	None
5.	No. of temporary dwellings (huts etc.,) demolished	None
6.	No. of houses declared unfit under	
	(i) Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957.	1
	(ii) Section 72 of the Housing Act, 1969	None
7.	No. of houses made fit during year	15
8.	No. of unfit houses occupied under licence	None
9.	Houses in multiple occupation (Housing Acts, 1961 to 1969)	None
10.	Reconditioning of condemned houses - Exclusion from Clearance/Demolition Orders (Housing Act, 1961)	None

11. Substitution of Closing Order of Demolition Order (Housing Act, 1961) Action taken. None

12. Housing Act, 1969 Section 28 General Improvement Areas No. of areas so defined. None

13. Housing Act, 1957 - Slum Clearance 1970 - 73.

			1970	1971	1972	1973
1.	Part III	a. Houses in areas to be declared	10	-	-	-
		b. Houses to be cleared	17	-	-	-
2.	Part II	Houses likely to be subject to demolition or closing orders	9	-	-	-

Remarks Remaining unfit properties should be dealt with in 1970 provided fresh houses are available for the displaced families.

14. Housing Act, 1964. Any action taken during year Three Improvement areas declared.

15. Rent Acts, 1968 and Housing Act, 1969

(i) Certificates of Fair Rent Certificates issued (if known) None

(ii) Certificates of Disrepair
(a) No. of applications received None

(b) Certificates issued None

	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection		Gained from conversion of large houses or buildings into flats or dwellings	Lost from conversion of two or more houses into one
	For Slum Clearance	For Other Purposes	For Slum Clearance	For Other Purposes		
Local Authority	-	36	-	30	-	-
Private Enterprise	-	52	-	56	-	-

Number of Post-War houses erected from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1969.

By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise
974	545

Future Housing Programme (if known) (As requested by Ministry of Housing & Local Government Circular No. 21/65)

Programme Forecast 70- 71- 72- 73

1970	71
1971	50
1972	40
1973	50

(a) No. of temporary housing units occupied (i) Prefabs None
(ii) Huts, etc. None

(b) No. of houses found overcrowded 2

Houses required

(i)	To replace houses scheduled for demolition	15
(ii)	To abate overcrowding	-
(iii)	For other purposes	55
(iv)	Applications for Council houses at end of year	
	(a) Urgent bona fide cases	38
	(b) Applications for old people's dwellings	49
	(c) Others	183
	Total Applications	270

	Number of Permanent Dwellings in District as at 31.12.68.	GAINED a) Erected b) Conversion c) Council houses sold to P.E. during 1969 (b)			Total (a) + (b)	LOST Less houses a) Demolished b) Closed c) Sold during 1969 d) Conversion				Number of Permanent Dwellings in District as at 31.12.69.
	(a)	A	B	C		A	B	C	D	
L.A.	1067	36	-	-	1103	-	-	-	-	1103
P.E.	1593	52	-	-	1645	-	-	-	-	1645
Totals	2660	88	-	-	2748	-	-	-	-	2748

OLD PEOPLE'S DWELLINGS

Total Number erected to 31. 12. 69.		Number in Course of Erection	
With County Council Aid	Without County Council Aid	With County Council Aid	Without County Council Aid
96	NIL	13	NIL

GRANTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO PRIVATE OWNERS

	Up to August, 1969				After August, 1969			
	Received Applications	No. of Dwellings	Approved Applications	No. of Dwellings	Received Applications	No. of Dwellings	Approved Applications	No. of Dwellings
1. Improvement Grants	3	3	3	3	-	-	-	-
2. Standard Grants	4	4	4	4	5	5	-	-
3. Special Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Any Observations: Insufficient use made of Improvement Grant facilities

APPENDIX D, TABLE 3

Meat Inspection

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs
Number killed (if known)	1,157	44,663	273	22
Number inspected	1,157	44,663	273	22
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci				
Whole carcases condemned	3*	124+	13=	1"
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	228	25,198	-	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	20.1	56.7	4.76	36.36
Tuberculosis only				
Whole carcases condemned	-	1	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	3	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	0.009	-	-
Cysticercosis				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	87	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	29	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-
Weight of meat condemned in (lbs) for:-				
(a) Tuberculosis	-	429	-	-
(b) Cysticercosis	-	1,780	-	-
(c) Other	995	52,270	524	108
Total (in lbs.)condemned	995	54,542	524	108

* Oedema (2) Septicaemia (1) + Oedema (67) Emaciation (28) Septicaemia (12) Extensive Bruising (6) Moribund (4) Generalised Myositis (4) Lympho-Sarcoma (1) Pyaemia (1) Acute Arthritis (1) = Immaturity (4) Oedema (3) Septicaemia(3) Pyaemia (3) " Septic Metritis (1).
There are no pigs or horses slaughtered in Chard.